(d) by when Government propose to implement the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The task force has yet to finalise its recommendations.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

DD loss on private telecasting programmes

381. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan lost about Rs. 10 crore to a private telecasting firm for its two programmes "Aankhon Dekhi" and "Dopahar Aankhon Dekhi" due to undue benefit extended to the firm as brought out in a recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General;

(b) if so, the details of the contract and the event leading to the loss to Doordarshan;

(c) whether it is also a fact that until recently no investigation has been made into the deal; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken to recover the rightful dues?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The C&AG in its report for the year ended March, 2000 has observed that Doordarshan did not apply the commercial rates in accordance with the then prevalent Rate Card in respect of news based programmes "Aankhon Dekhi' and "Dopahar Aankhon Dekhi' thereby giving an undue benefit of Rs. 9.96 crores to the producer of the programmes.

(c) and (d) the C&AG para on the subject is under examination.

Uniform Guidelines for Operation of Foreign Pay Channels

382. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to formulate uniform guidelines for

governance, entry existence and operation of all the foreign pay TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to probe the legal existence of these foreign pay TV channels *vis-a-vis* the prevailing laws of the land?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Guidelines for satellite channels uplinking from India, are already in place. Indian companies with foreign equity holding upto 49% are permitted to set up uplinking hub (teleports) for leasing on out their facilities to broadcasters. All TV Channels, irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure or management control), are eligible to uplink from India subject to compliance of terms and conditions laid down in the Guidelines. The programmes of foreign statelite channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programme and advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The subscription rates of the pay channels or of the cable operators are commercial arrangements between the broadcasting companies, cable operations and the subscribers and are market driven.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

National and International Coverage of AIR/DD

383. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present national and international coverage of Akashvani and Doordarshan;

(b) the targets for the year 2002-2003;

(c) the steps underway to achieve them; and

(d) the funds, technology or physical provisions that stand in the way?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Radio coverage is presently available